AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 20, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912.
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

WHOLE NO. 1182 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1933 | FRANK MORRISON, Secretary | VOL. 23, NO. 40

Stake nothing on the hazards of chance.—Marcus Aurelius.

Editorials

Labor and the NRA

Statements in certain newspapers that the American Federation of Labor is against the National Recovery Act are completely erroneous. The position of the Federation was stated by President William Green in his recent Detroit speech. Mr. Green said:

> **"I have no patience with those who condemn and find fault with the National Recovery Act. Labor has not fared perfectly under it. We have complaints to make—many of them. We have not gotten out of it all that we hoped for or that we were entitled to, but the friends of labor, the masses of the people, are not going to condemn the National Recovery Act because it does not bring us overnight all that we think we are entitled to.**
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> **"The American Federation of Labor and all its hosts, the millions of workers whom it has the honor to represent, are going to stand behind a great fighting leader, a great President of the United States, who is actually trying to do something for the masses of the people."**

Beginning with the code of fair competition for the Cotton Textile Industry, the first one set up under the Recovery Act, the officers of the American Federation of Labor have held that the maximum work week in the codes, usually forty hours or more, is too long to provide employment for the millions of jobless and have endeavored to have the hours materially reduced.

The A. F. of L. officers have also insisted that the minimum wages in the codes are all too low to materially increase the buying power of the masses, without which the return of prosperity is seriously retarded, and have recommended drastic increases in the wage rates. In addition, A. F. of L. officers have urged the necessity of certain changes in the administration of the codes deemed necessary for the adequate protection of the workers.

These activities are among the duties imposed on organized labor by the Recovery Act itself. If the A. F. of L. did not endeavor to secure higher wages, shorter hours, and administrative changes regarded as vital to the interests of labor, it would not only be recreant to its obligations under the Act, but would be disloyal to the workers whose lives are so materially affected by the labor sections of the codes.

At the same time, the officers of the American Federation of Labor and its millions of members wholeheartedly support the National Recovery Act, and, as Mr. Green truly says, "stand behind" President Roosevelt, who "is actually trying to do something for the masses of the people."

Facts Answer Roosevelt's Critics

The recent barrage of carping criticism of the President's recovery program shot forth by subversive business leaders and politicians who still cling to the decadent theory of "rugged individualism," with its accompanying low wages and long hours for the employed workers and unemployment and destitution for millions of others, is strikingly dissipated by the handful of statistical facts made public by the Administration with regard to the progress of re-employment through the program adopted by the Civil Works Administration.

Harry L. Hopkins, Emergency Relief Administrator, reported to the President that two million unemployed workers were removed from relief rolls and provided with jobs at living wages during the first two weeks of the Administration's employment program, and that before the end of December the number would be increased to four million.

Facts like these smash into smithereens "boloney" assaults and similar hot-air sapping and mining aimed at the President's program, which is restoring to millions of unemployed workers and their families the modest happiness that results from receiving a living wage.

Child Labor Amendment Wins Iowa

The ratification of the proposed child labor amendment to the Federal Constitution by Iowa raises to sixteen the number of States which have approved this meritorious proposition.

At the regular session of the Iowa Legislature several months ago the House indefinitely postponed action on the measure, which had previously been approved by the Senate. Since that time members of the Legislature had received definite disapproval of their action by the concerted action of the Iowa State Federation of Labor and other progressive organizations, with the result that the House adopted the amendment by a vote of 61 to 42.

The child labor amendment does not legislate on the employment of children. It merely confers upon the Congress of the United States the power "to limit, regulate and prohibit the labor of persons under 18 years of age."

Including Iowa, the sixteen States which have approved the amendment are: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Washington, Wisconsin.

As a result of the organized efforts of the American Federation of Labor and the State Federations of Labor ten States approved the child labor amendment last year. The favorable action of twenty more States will be necessary to bring the number up to thirty-six, required to write the amendment into the Constitution.

Buying Legislation by Campaign Contributions

The practice of corporation officials of resorting to indefensible methods to secure the election of State officers who in turn will favor legislation for the financial benefit of the corporations, is revealed in the Senate investigation of alleged violation of Federal laws in the election of United States Senator John H. Overton of Louisiana.

According to press reports of the inquiry, S. D. Hunter of Shreveport, a gas and oil well capitalist, opposed to the election of Overton, admitted on the witness stand that he contributed $75,000 to the campaign fund of Dudley Le Blanc, one of the candidates for governor, because Le Blanc had agreed if elected, to amend the "severance tax" which was a financial burden to Hunter's oil and gas interests.

Hunter also admitted that the International Gas Products Co., of which he was a large stockholder, had been fined $6,000 for "stealing gas" by a process known as "meter-jumping."

Hunter claimed he knew nothing about the gas stealing and experienced a "shock" when he heard of it. He also said the company demanded that the executive employe who worked the meter trick plead guilty personally and pay a fine. Of course the layman is inclined to draw the conclusion that no junior executive would resort to "meter-jumping" for the benefit of the corporation which employs him without a suggestion along that line from higher officials.

Evidently Louisiana needs more stringent election codes against corrupt political practices as well as higher standards of business practices by corporation officials.

12,883,000 British Workers Carry Idle Insurance; 2,336,727 Are Unemployed

London, England.—The Ministry of Labor Gazette, a government publication, estimates that at the beginning of July, 1933, the number of persons insured against unemployment, aged 16 to 64 inclusive, for Great Britain and Northern Ireland totalled 12,883,000.

For July, 1932, the total was 12,808,000, so there had been an increase of 75,000 during the 12 months. It is stated that the total for last July is the highest number recorded since 1923.

The figures reveal that in the 55 industries the major decreases in insured workers were 8.4 per cent in marine engineering, 7.4 per cent in vehicles other than motors, cycles, and aircraft, and 7.3 per cent in employes of the national government.

The three major increases in the number of insured were 8.8 per cent in miscellaneous manufacturing, 7.5 per cent in electric cable, apparatus, pumps etc., and 5.7 per cent in food manufacture other than bread, biscuits, cake, etc.

According to Government figures as of September 25, there were 2,336,727 jobless workers on the registers of employment exchanges, classified as follows: wholly unemployed, 1,857,064; temporarily unemployed, 393,517; normally in casual employment, 86,146. The total included 1,929,896 men, 57,076 boys, 309,925 women and 39,830 girls.

Auto Accidents Kill 21 N. Y. Children in Month

New York.—Twenty-one children 16 years of age and under were killed by vehicular street accidents in New York City during October, compared with 18 in October, 1932, the Police Department announced. One hundred and six persons of all ages were killed during the month, compared with 93 killed in October of last year.

Boycott All Goods Labeled "Made in Germany," AFL Says

Mobilization of Buying Power of Millions of American Workers Urged As Protest Against Hitler's Murderous Persecution of German Labor Leaders.

Washington.—The urgent duty of looking for the label "Made in Germany" on all products of every sort and refusing to buy an article so marked was emphasized at the headquarters of the American Federation of Labor as the imperative duty of all workers in carrying out the mandate of the 1933 convention of the A. F. of L. for a boycott of German goods and services until Chancellor Hitler ceases his repressive policy of persecuting German trade unions and Jews and recognizes the right of the working men and women of Germany to organize into bona fide independent trade unions of their own choosing.

It was pointed out that under Federal statutes all goods imported into the United States are required to carry a label showing the country in which they are manufactured. Every toy, every patent medicine, every bottle or keg of beer, and every other product manufactured under Chancellor Adolph Hitler's notorious Nazi regime must carry the plainly visible label "Made in Germany." American labor and all other liberty-loving citizens should watch for this label and see to it that no product bearing it desecrates American homes.

The vast purchasing power of the millions of American workers and their families mobilized as a protest against the goods produced in Nazi factories, where the workers work under a dictatorship devoid of even the semblance of economic liberty, will carry in ringing and clear tones across the ocean to Hitler and his barbarous associates American labor's emphatic protest against the destruction of the German labor movement, the confiscation of trade union and social democratic property worth many millions of dollars, the imprisonment of hundreds of union officials, and the unspeakable persecution of labor leaders and the entire Jewish population.

For the American workers to do less than boycott the goods of Hitler's Germany would be to condone the brutality of a regime which has received the condemnation of the entire civilized world.

Watch for the label "Made in Germany."

GERMAN GOODS BOYCOTT MOBILIZED IN BELGIUM

Brussels, Belgium.—The Belgian Trade Union Federation has vigorously mobilized the workers of Belgium in the boycott of German goods and services because of Hitler's destruction of the German trade unions and the persecution of labor officials.

The boycott is organized in cooperation with the Belgian Labor Party and the Cooperative Societies, a joint committee representing all three groups carrying on the work.

The joint committee has set up a network of local and district committees throughout the country to carry their propaganda into the workers homes by house-to-house canvassing. Boycott activities are also undertaken by women's and young workers' organizations. It is held that these direct and practical measures are necessary to make the boycott a success.

A press campaign has also been organized and posters and other literature issued emphasizing the atrocities committed against the workers in Germany by Hitler's brutal and barbarous methods of victimization and torture.

The Federation recently issued detailed lists of articles to be boycotted, mentioning some 400 trade-mark articles easy to recognize and specifying substitute articles which can be used in place of those boycotted.

BAN ON GERMAN GOODS ORGANIZED IN ENGLAND

London, England.—The first completely organized boycott of German goods and services in Great Britain is in effective operation, according to the newly formed Jewish Representative Council, which sponsors the boycott because of the continued persecution of Jews in Germany by Hitler's Nazi dictatorship.

The object of the boycott is the entire elimination of German goods from Jewish businesses and homes. Committees of the council are canvassing every community to stop the purchase of German goods until Hitler's anti-Jewish persecution ceases.

Sir Robert Mond, brother of the first Lord Melchett, is president of the council. The vice presidents include Dr. Moses Gaster, the eminent scholar; Montague Lyons, K. C. and Thomas Levy, both members of Parliament; Philip Guedella, and R. D. Blumenfeld.

In the interest of the boycott it is proposed to arrange an exhibit in London where samples of German goods and of British and other substitutes will be shown side by side.

LONG HOURS, LOW WAGES, CAUSE OF UNEMPLOYMENT

"Unemployment is the result of business and commercial stagnation, due to the lack of purchasing power on the part of the masses of the people, resulting from over work and under pay," declared the 1932 convention of the American Federation of Labor. "Shorter hours and higher wages as a means of spreading employment and increasing purchasing power are economic essentials, as necessary to trade and commerce as they are to the workers themselves."

GERMAN MEDICAL GOODS BOYCOTTED IN HOLLAND

Amsterdam, Holland.—A "General Committee for Defense Against Terrorism and Persecution" has been established here to systematize organized labor's boycott against German goods and services as a protest against the outlawing of the German labor movement and the atrocious persecution of German labor leaders by Chancellor Adolph Hitler's Nazi dictatorship. Mr. Nathans of the International Transport Workers Federation is secretary of the Committee.

One of the recent effective activities of the Committee consisted in a definite organized attempt to popularize a "Pharmaceutical and Therapeutical Register," which is a small book compiled by doctors and chemists to give information as to the country of origin of the many patent medicines (trade make goods) now on the market.

German producers hold a very prominent position in this industry, but the pharmaceutical directory shows that producers in other countries manufacture products in this line which are just as efficacious and cheap as those made under Hitler's brutal antilabor regime. This fact is brought out in the thirty pages of introduction to the list.

The compilers of the "Pharmaceutical and Therapeutical Register" have nothing to do with organized labor's boycott of German goods and services, but the trade unions of Holland are making effective use of it to reduce to a minimum the consumption of German-made patent medicines and similar products.

HITLER'S ANTILABOR TERRORISM IN ACTION

Washington.—The extreme brutality, ending in murder, which characterizes Chancellor Hitler's Nazi war against prominent persons in the German labor movement is strikingly shown by the victimization of Philip Scheidemann and his family.

A picture of this victimization was given to the 1933 convention of the American Federation of Labor by Miss Selma M. Borchardt, a delegate of the American Federation of Teachers, who favored the boycott of German goods and services as a protest against Hitler's wanton destruction of the German labor movement and his equally wanton persecution of trade union leaders. Miss Borchardt, who had recently returned from a visit to Germany, said:

"The crime of Philip Scheidemann was not even the crime of birth, because he was born a Christian. But he had sinned; he had tried to keep Germany a Republic. He it was who helped to establish the Republic of Germany. His sin was that he believed in the form of government to which you and I subscribe, and he thought that if he ran away his wife and children would be safer.

"When he went away they got his family. They drowned his son, they took his daughter and broke every major bone in her body, and they caught her husband. They did all this because Philip Scheidemann believed in the republican form of government and said so.

"I did not hear of the 'crime' of Philip Scheidemann and the punishment meted out to him from an enemy of Germany. I got it from a representative of the Hitler government seated in a compartment with me going into Spain. He boasted of it. * * * He said: 'Take the case of Philip Scheidemann. He thought he had gotten away, but he had not. We got his family, and they know now what discipline means.' Then with pride in his new culture he told me that the Nazis had certainly finished the Scheidemann family."

The unparalleled treatment, not stopping at torture and murder, which Hitler and his Nazi brutes meted out to Scheidemann and his family has been duplicated in innumerable instances against other labor leaders.

It was this record of brutality and persecution which lead the 1933 convention of the American Federation of Labor to unanimously declare a boycott of German goods and services until the German workers are freed from the despotism under which they now live and are given the right to reorganize their independent trade union movement.

$3,300,000,000 PUBLIC WORKS FUND NEARS END

Washington.—The $3,300,000,000 public works fund, appropriated by the last session of Congress to provide jobs for a portion of America's huge army of unemployed workers which at that time numbered over 12,000,000, has all been allocated but about $150,000,000, which will be disposed of in about three weeks, it was announced by Secretary of the Interior Ickes, who is Public Works Administrator.

The "allocation" of this immense fund does not mean that the money has all been spent, it was explained, but rather that projects calling for the money have been approved. An example of these continuing projects is the Triborough Bridge in New York City, a self-liquidating work projected by the Port of New York Authority, a public corporation. It is estimated that the bridge will cost from $35,000,000 to $36,000,000, all of which must be earmarked in the public works funds now although the money will be expended over a period of three years.

It is expected that the Administration will ask the Congress which convenes on January 3 for additional public works appropriations running into hundreds of millions of dollars.

Dumping Cheap-Labor Clothing in Foreign Markets Subsidized by Polish Government

London, England.—The announced proposal of the Polish Government to increase the dumping of subsidized Polish clothing into Great Britain has created a definite idea in British trade union circles for the complete exclusion of clothing made in Poland.

At present the Polish Government subsidizes clothing exports as much as 50 per cent in some cases, despite the tariff of 20 per cent levied by the British Government. It is stated that according to the scheme it is intended, with the cooperation of the Polish Government, to combine the clothing manufacturers of Poland into a syndicate for export purposes and to market their products through an agent in every importing country, thus doing away with the present policy of shipping the clothing to domestic wholesalers for resale to retailers.

Labor observers say that behind the plan there is the intention of the Polish manufacturers to maintain their policy of dumping, while making it less costly for Poland by eliminating wasteful competition among the manufacturers and saving a substantial part of the wholesale distribution costs both in Great Britain and every other country which imports Polish clothing.

LIVING COST SURVEY READY FOR ROOSEVELT

Washington.—Department of Labor officials announced that a general report on current living costs will be presented to President Roosevelt within a few days. The President will use the statistics as the basis for his decision to abolish, modify, or continue the existing 15 per cent wage cut in the pay of Government employes enacted by the last session of Congress as an "economy" measure.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor and the Bureau of Home Economics of the Department of Agriculture made the survey by order of the President following many protests that the cost of living standard of 1928, on which the salary slash was based, contained obsolete items, such as button shoes for women, and was decidedly unfair to Government employes. It was also claimed that the 1928 standard did not include a large number of items which add to present living costs.

In Washington the survey was started by submitting two written questionnaires to 55,000 Government employes, which was followed by personal visits to their homes by data gatherers.

BLUE EAGLE WILL BRING PROSPERITY, SAYLOR SAYS

Wilmington, Del.—John C. Saylor, editor of the Wilmington Labor Herald, and president of the Central Labor Union here, told a radio audience of the benefits organized workers can secure under the National Recovery Act, back of which, he declared, is a plan to put unemployed men and women back at profitable jobs. He said, in part:

"The men and women of labor are not satisfied to have their food, shelter, fuel and necessities of life doled out to them. They want work. They, who are not employed at present, are still hopeful because they know the President, General Johnson and the leaders at Washington are trying. Trying is much better than wishing.

"It is a fact, too, that the nation's unemployment is being lessened. Here, in our community, workers are resuming their regular employment. Our community is losing its pitiful 'relief' complex. We are thinking of work now.

"Our faith and confidence in the National Recovery Administration is unlimited. We see behind it a square deal for all our people. It is a program founded on a work conception."

Mr. Saylor, who spoke as a member of the State Recovery Board, also urged the necessity of complete support for the National Recovery Administration. On this point he said:

"If we want prosperity for ourselves, we must patronize those who display the Blue Eagle—and mean it—for, in return prosperity will go to the rest of the people of our community, State and national.

"We are not disgusted or displeased with the present economic system. It merely got out of balance, and each of us can do his or her individual part to put the nation back on balance by supporting the Blue Eagle—the famous emblem of progress and a returning prosperity."

KANSAS CITY UNION PAYS $63,680 TO IDLE MEMBERS

Kansas City, Mo.—Kansas City Typographical Union, with an average membership of 700, has done creditable work during the last two and one-half years in looking after its unemployed members, according to a statement by Henry V. Beckley, secretary of the union.

"To partially provide for these unemployed members," Mr. Beckley said, "the local union by voluntary assessment upon earnings of regularly employed members up to October, 1932, has paid $63,680.41 in cash benefits.

"It is estimated that prior to January, 1933, regularly employed union printers here 'laid off' or gave to unemployed members 8,000 days' work, representing earnings of more than $70,000, a total disbursement by employed members of over $133,000 to those without work.

"Let me make this more clear. A union printer may engage a competent substitute to perform his work when he desires so to do, and in that way we were able to divide $70,000 in wages among needy fellow workmen.

"In November, 1932, the International Typographical Union adopted the five-day week, which all members now observe. Since January of this year typographical union members holding regular situations here have 'given out' over 12,000 days' work to its unemployed members, representing earnings in excess of $100,000."

U. S. EMPLOYES MAY GET PART OF PAY SLASH BACK

Washington.—It was announced that President Roosevelt favors restoring to Government employes as quickly as possible 5 per cent of the 15 per cent pay cut imposed on them by the last session of Congress as part of the "economy" program.

A number of members of Congress are reported as favoring the restoration immediately instead of waiting until the beginning of the new fiscal year on July 1.

The American Federation of Labor and the American Federation of Government Employes, affiliated with the A. F. of L., insist that the entire 15 per cent was unjustly taken from the Federal employes originally and should be completely restored without delay.

Auto Drivers Get Proper Rest Periods in England

London, England.—Officials of the Transport and General Workers' Union declare that important steps toward the national regulation of working conditions in the transportation of goods on the highways by motor-driven vehicles will soon be taken as the result of the enactment by Parliament of the bill regulating that industry.

It was announced that the Minister of Labor will consult with the trade unions and employers' organizations with a view to establishing the negotiating machinery.

One important provision of the Act insures for the drivers proper rest periods away from their vehicles. This, it is said, will improve work conditions and prevent accidents caused by excessive fatigue.

Green Demands "Merit" Section Abolition in Automobile Code

A. F. of L. Chief Declares the Proviso, Written Into the Code by the Automobile Manufacturers, Violates Labor Section of Recovery Act—Roosevelt Bans It from Every Other Code.

Washington.—The determination of the American Federation of Labor to secure the abolition of the notorious "merit" proviso from the labor section of the fair practice code for the automobile manufacturing industry was announced at the Federation's headquarters here.

The position of the A. F. of L., it was pointed out, was definitely expressed by President William Green in his recent address at the mass meeting in Detroit, largely attended by automobile workers, held under the auspices of the Detroit Federation of Labor.

Mr. Green stated that one of the principal revisions which he had in mind was the abolition of the so-called "merit" provision which the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce, the sponsor of the code, insisted on incorporating in the labor section. On this "merit" provision, Mr. Green said:

"We attacked the code that was presented. We pointed out its inequalities. I know we changed it and had eliminated some very objectionable things. We still hold that it is far from perfect; that it must be revised, and ought to be corrected when it expires on December 31."

"Merit" Section Jammed Into Code

Mr. Green stated that one of the principal revisions which he had in mind was the abolition of the so-called "merit" provision which the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce, the sponsor of the code, insisted on incorporating in the labor section. Of this "merit" provision, Mr. Green said:

"There was a section incorporated in the automobile code that, to me, was highly objectionable. It caused great dissatisfaction among the representatives of labor. I say to you that we fought tenaciously to have it eliminated.

"I do not know why it was incorporated in the automobile code. I have been told that it was put in there as a sort of an inducement to some recalcitrant employers of automobile workers who objected to collective bargaining and to a closed shop—that it was put in there as an inducement to bring some in who would not come in. I do not know whether that is true or not. I do not know whether any promises were made by anyone in authority in order to influence the action of certain automobile manufacturers, but in spite of the protests of labor, in spite of our opposition, there was written into this code this qualifying section to Section 7:

Open Shop Declaration

"'Without in any way attempting to qualify or modify, by interpretation, the foregoing requirements of the National Recovery Act, employers in this industry may exercise their right to select, retain, or advance employes on the basis of individual merit, without regard to their membership or nonmembership in any organization.'

"Labor," Mr. Green said, "considered that as an open-shop declaration and labor opposed its inclusion in the automobile code. It was not incorporated in any code prior to adoption of this automobile code. We opposed it so vigorously that it was not included in any other code.

Roosevelt Condemns "Merit" Section

"We felt badly when the President approved the industrial code of fair practice for the automobile manufacturing industry with that section included. We thought we had lost our battle, but we had not. In fact, we won it. It caused so much interest, it developed so much opposition, that we finally won our fight because the President of the United States declared shortly after the adoption of this code that no such qualifying section would be approved by him for inclusion in any other industrial code of fair practice.

"I want to read what the President said. I quote from his statement:

"'Because it is evident that the insertion of any interpretation of Section 7 (a) in a code of fair competition leads only to further controversy and confusion, no such interpretation should be incorporated in any code. While there is nothing in the provisions of Section 7 (a) to interfere with the bona fide exercise of the right of an employer to select, retain or advance employes on the basis of individual merit, Section 7 (a) does clearly prohibit the pretended exercise of this right by an employer simply as a device for compelling employes to refrain from exercising the rights of self-organization, designation of representatives and collective bargaining, which are guaranteed to all employes in said Section 7 (a).'

Contrary to Labor Section of NRA

"The President got the point," Mr. Green declared. "He realized that employers have the right to retain, advance and discharge workers for inefficiency or for merit, but he realized that when that is put in a code for a pretended purpose it is contrary to Section 7 (a) and for that reason he says it shall not be incorporated in corporated in any other code and it will not be incorporated in any other code finally adopted.

Must Go Out of Code

"Our real fight is to have that eliminated from the automobile code. It should not be there. It stands as a threat. It disturbs harmonious relations. It creates suspicion. It is not for the best interests of employers if the workers are fearful.

"Under such conditions a right psychological situation is not created through the maintenance of that section in a code, and if I were an automobile manufacturer and the President of the United States would say to me that it is not a good thing, that it should not be in a code, and 'I will not put it in any other code,' I would be a good sport and say, 'All right, take it out of mine.'

"It is our purpose to make formal application, and I know we will be acting in accord with your wishes, for a revision of the automobile code when the 31st of December arrives, and one of the things we are going to ask, and I am going to publicly state it so that the automobile manufacturers will have advance notice, is that this section be eliminated. We are going to try to have this cut out.

"We believe that this section is bad for the employers. We believe it will be good for them if it is taken out. We believe that the workers will give better service; they will work with a better contented state of mind. They will not be afraid of discharge. They will not feel that they are going to be the victims of persecution and if that state of mind can be created it will be far better for the automobile manufacturer."

Puerto Rican Employers Support Labor's Demand to Extend Recovery Act to Island

San Juan, Puerto Rico.—A dozen trade and professional organizations joined with the Chamber of Commerce of Puerto Rico in making a direct appeal to President Roosevelt for the extension to the Island of all national emergency relief and recovery measures enacted by the United States Congress.

The action of these groups was an emphatic endorsement of a considerable portion of the declaration made by the 1933 convention of the American Federation of Labor in Washington on the relief of economic conditions in Puerto Rico.

The resolution on Puerto Rico was presented to the convention by Delegates Santiago Iglesias of the Puerto Rican Free Federation of Workingmen (the State Federation of Labor) and P. Rivera Martinez of the San Juan Central Labor Union.

Pointing out that the organized labor movement of the island, as represented by the Free Federation of Workingmen, has denounced for over 30 years the living and working conditions in that territory as unsound and injurious to the welfare of the working classes, who constitute the overwhelming majority of the inhabitants, the convention, without a dissenting voice, endorsed the aspirations and demands of the Free Federation and pledged its moral support to that organization's rehabilitation plans for the island.

The convention declared that the benefits of the National Recovery Act have not been felt in the Island of Puerto Rico, "a country where over 1,500,000 American citizens live, and where not a single employer of labor abided by the appeal of our President by the signing of a temporary blanket code, while the workers there are compelled to pay all the increases in prices of all commodities."

Realizing the manifest impossibility of the workers of Puerto Rico coming to Washington to present their case before the NRA, because of the distance, the convention instructed the president of the American Federation of Labor "to earnestly urge upon the competent authorities that a Deputy Administrator be appointed at the earliest possible date for the Island of Puerto Rico with sufficient authority to call hearings in that Island and to carry on the purposes of the law and all the duties inherent to the National Recovery Act, and so that labor and industry be protected alike in Puerto Rico under the NRA."

In pursuance of its plan for speeding up economic recovery in Puerto Rico the convention authorized the President of the A. F. of L. to direct the Legislative Committee to work for the legislative demands of the Puerto Rican Federation of Labor that are still pending extension to the island.

Declaring that in no part of the United States or its insular possessions is the employment situation more acute than in Puerto Rico, the convention urged that the A. F. of L. Executive Council make efforts in particular before the competent authorities to have extended to Puerto Rico the benefits of the Wagner-Peyser Act, creating a new United States Employment Service, in view of the fact that there is no place under our flag where this measure is more needed than in Puerto Rico.

The declaration of Puerto Rican employers in urging that emergency relief and recovery measures be extended promptly to Puerto Rico comes somewhat late when compared with the prompt action taken by the Free Federation of Workingmen and the American Federation of Labor 1933 convention. But organized labor here recognizes the action as valuable assistance for the relief of the working people.

JACKSON LABOR BODY SERVES 500,000 FREE MEALS TO IDLE

Jackson, Mich.—The Relief Kitchen operated by the Jackson Federation of Labor has served over 500,000 free meals to the destitute unemployed of Jackson and their families, officials of the Federation declared.

Hitherto most of the food supplies for the kitchen have been donated by sympathetic business concerns, organizations and individuals, while the committee in charge for the Federation managed the Kitchen. Hereafter the necessary food will be supplied by the Jackson County Emergency Welfare Relief in order that this type of welfare work may come under county supervision. The officials of the Federation of Labor will remain in charge of the operation of the Kitchen under the direction of Allan Leamy, County Relief Administrator.

THREE BLUE EAGLE WAGE CHISELERS PENALIZED

Washington.—General Hugh S. Johnson, Recovery Administrator, struck a definite blow at wage and hour chiselers by ordering all Blue Eagle insignia removed from three restaurants for violation of the wages and hours provisions of the President's Re-employment Agreement. The penalty was imposed on the following concerns: The Coconis Co., Inc., Chicago; Neal, Hibbard & Co., operators of Nealard's in Evanston, Ill., and J. J. Bierbower, proprietor of the Black Hawk Cafe, in Grand Island, Neb.

The restaurants were ordered to surrender their NRA insignia after local NRA compliance boards had submitted evidence charging the proprietors and operators with persistent refusal to pay the wage rates and apply the hours specifically set forth by President Roosevelt as necessary both to provide employment for millions of jobless and restore prosperity by increasing the purchasing power of the masses.